

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /096 W

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R 282200Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4240

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATELMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2070

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU

SUBJECT: NATIONAL GUARD CONVENES COURT OF INQUIRY IN RAPE CASE

REF : A) MANAGUA 2020, B. MANAGUA 2051

1. ON MAY 24 THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN) CONVENED A FORMAL COURT OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE MRS. AMADA PINEDA DE ARAUZ' CHARGES THAT SHE WAS RAPED BY 18 GN SOLDIERS IN MATAGALPA (SEE REFTEL A). HEADING THE MILITARY COURT IS COLONEL JOSE MARIA MONCADA, A WELL-REGARDED OFFICER WITH A REPUTATION FOR HONESTY. MONCADA IS QUOTED BY OPPOSITION LA PRENSA AS SAYING THE INQUIRY WILL "ON INSTRUCTION FROM ABOVE" GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CASE. PROCEEDINGS WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE PRESS. SITTING AS MEMBERS OF THE COURT ARE THE TWO OFFICERS SENT LAST WEEK TO MATAGALPA TO INVESTIGATE THE ARAUZ CHARGES (SEE REFTEL B).

2. THE COURT HAS CALLED ON MRS. ARAUZ, WHO IS BELIEVED TO BE
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IN MATAGALPA, TO APPEAR BEFORE IT ON MAY 29 TO TESTIFY. IT

REQUESTED HER APPEARANCE THROUGH ATTORNEY RODOLFO ROBELO, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY (CPLI), WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED HER WHEN SHE FILED HER ORIGINAL COMPLAINT WITH THE GN ON MAY 17.

3. COMMENT: PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE ARAUZ CASE IS STILL HIGH. THE HOSPITAL WORKERS UNION AT MANAGUA'S VELEZ PAIZ HOSPITAL HAS EVEN AWARDED HER THE TITLE "MARTYR MOTHER OF NICARAGUA". HOWEVER, THE GN HAS TO A GREAT EXTENT DEFUSED THE ISSUE BY CONVENING THE COURT OF INQUIRY AND JUST IN TIME FOR ARMED FORCES DAY MAY 27. THE GN GIVES ALL APPEARANCES OF INTENDING TO GIVE THE MATTER A FULL, PUBLIC AIRING. WHETHER THIS FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE WILL BE CARRIED FURTHER TO INCLUDE A MORE WIDE-RANGING INVESTIGATION AND REPORT TO THE NATION ON CHARGES OF GENERAL ABUSE BY THE GN OF PEASANTS IN MATAGALPA REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
WARNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL GUARD, COURTS MARTIAL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANAGU02070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740134-0035
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740514/aaaaamfr.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) MANAGUA 2020, B. MANAGUA 2051
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL GUARD CONVENES COURT OF INQUIRY IN RAPE CASE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU, (PINEDA DE ARAUZ, AMADA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005